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Message Text

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60
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 PM-07 L-03 NSC-10 EB-11 NEA-10

SAJ-01 NIC-01 DRC-01 /089 W
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R 191506Z DEC 73
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8054
USIA WASHDC
INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB UNN

UNCLAS BELGRADE 5598

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, YO, OGEN
SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION REPORT: TERRORIST ATTACK IN ROME

1. YUGOSLAV MEDIA REACTION TO PALESTINIAN TERRORIST ATTACK AT ROME AIRPORT HAS GRADUALLY SHIFTED IN VIEW FROM INITIAL DEC 18 NEWS REPORTS, WHICH CITED ATTACK BY PALESTINIAN "COMMANDOS" (POLITIKA) OR "KIDNAPPERS" (BORBA), TO DEC 19 DENOUNCEMENT OF "GRUESOME CRIME" BY PALESTINIAN "TERRORISTS." SHIFT IN VIEW NOTED ON DEC 18 BELGRADE TV EVENING NEWS (2000) WHICH FIRST REFERRED TO PREPETRATORS OF ROME MASSACRE AS "CRIMINALS," WHILE REPORTING THAT SOME ARAB SOURCES WERE CONDEMNING ATTACK. BY LATE TV EVENING NEWS (2300), WHEN FULL ARAB REACTION WAS KNOWN, ASSAULT WAS TERMED "CRUEL TERRORIST ACT." TODAY'S POLITIKA HEADLINES ITS FRONT PAGE NEWS REPORT, "TERRORISTS SURRENDER."

2. IN DEC 19 BORBA EDIT, "FOR WHOSILINTEREST," FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMENTATOR VLADO TESLIC SHARPLY CONDEMNS "GRUESOME CRIME" IN ROME, BUT IN SEEKING MOTIVE NOTES THAT ONLY "ISRAELI AGGRESSORS" COULD HAVE INTEREST IN "POISONING ATMOSPHERE" OF UPCOMING GENEVA CONFERENCE ON MID-EAST. EDIT CONCLUDES THAT "MASSACRE IN ROME COULD HAVE BEEN COMMITED ONLY BY ENEMIES OF ARAB AND PALESTINIAN CAUSE, BY ENEMIES OF WORLD PEACE AND MERCENARIES OF IMPERIALISM AND ZIONISM."
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JOHNSON

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